modest uranium and vast thorium resources. Large scale thorium utilization is contemplated in the third stage of this programme , where uranium-233 bred in Fast Breeder Reactors of the second stage, will be used together with thorium.

The government has taken a number of steps to develop appropriate technologies for the utilization of thorium. A few of the major steps are:

(1) Setting up the research reactor Kamini at Kalpakkam using Uranium-233 fuel obtained from irradiated thorium. The reactor has been operating since 1997. The fuel for the reactor is bred, reprocessed and fabricated indigenously.

(2) Irradiation of thorium fuel bundles in research reactor at Trombay and in Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) has been carried out.

(3) Design and development of Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) using thorium based fuel. This reactor will serve as a technology demonstrator.

(c) Around 2,00,000 GW-yr electricity potential exists in India using domestic thorium through the route of breeder technology.

Supply of uranium

†1399. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held discussions with the countries other than the countries of World's non-atomic supply group for the supply of uranium;

(b) if so, the names of these countries; and

(c) the reaction of these countries with regard to the supply of uranium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Government is examining all possibilities of accessing uranium with potential partners. However a change in terms of opening of international civil nuclear cooperation with India would be necessary to realize such a possibility.

Atomic power plants in Rajasthan

1400. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals to set up new atomic power plants in Rajasthan;

(b) what would be their production capacity;

(c) the quantum of power to be provided to the State from these plants;

(d) by when it would be possible; and

(e) what would be its cost?

† *Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The XI Plan proposals envisage start of work on two indigenous reactors of 700 MWe (RAPP 7&8) each at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan. The start of work depends on establishment of fuel linkages.

(b) The capacity of the units would be 1400 MWe.

(c) The allocation of power to Rajasthan and other beneficiary states in the Northern Region will be decided while finalizing the Power Purchase Agreement.

(d) The planned completion period of the project is about six years from the actual start of work.

(e) The estimated expenditure at 2006-07 price level is about Rs. 8,290 crore.

Rajasthan Atomic Power Project

†1401. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power generation from first and second units of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP), Rawatbhata is closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the generation is expected to be re-started;

(d) if not, the steps Government is taking to compensate the loss incurred to Rajasthan due to closure of first and second units;

(e) whether Government of Rajasthan has requested to increase the allotment of State from earlier constructed and under construction units of RAPP; and

(f) the steps Government is taking to accept the request of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The first unit of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (current capacity 100 MWe) is currently shut down for techno-economic evaluation on continuation of its operation. All aspects, particularly the fresh investments that would be necessary for its continued operation, need to be comprehensively evaluated before a decision on restart/shut down of this unit can be taken.

The second unit RAPS-2 (200 MWe) is currently undergoing Feeder Replacement and expected to restart in second quarter 2008-09.

(d) to (f) In response to request of Rajasthan State Government for allocation of additional power, share of Rajasthan from unallocated quota of Central Sector Power Stations has been increased from 11% to 19.4%. Rajasthan also has a share from RAPS-3&4 (2x220 MWe) in operation and RAPP-5&6(2x220 MWe) under construction & expected to be commissioned in 2008-09 as well as from Narora Atomic Power Station (2x220 MWe), in operation at Narora, UP in the northern electricity region.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.